



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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July 15, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Administration Services

From: Councilmember Ron Menor
Council District 9

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RM", is written over the "From" line of the memorandum.

Re: 2019 Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) Annual Conference, Maui, Hawaii

Introduction

The following is a summary of my activities during the 2019 Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) Annual Conference held from June 10, 2019 to June 12, 2019 at the Wailea Beach Resort Marriott, Maui, Hawaii.

Monday, June 10, 2019

Conference Morning General Session

The keynote address was delivered by Mufi Hanneman, the President and CEO of the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association. The topic of his presentation was "Sustainable Tourism Management Marketing". He spoke at length about the efforts of his organization and

the visitor industry to address issues impacting tourism including the proliferation of illegal vacation rentals; homelessness; Waikiki business improvement district; attracting major special events such as the Los Angeles Rams-Dallas Cowboys NFL preseason game; and developing and implementing climate change resiliency strategies in visitor destination areas.

Conferees also heard remarks from NACo Executive Director Matt Chase who briefly summarized several federal issues impacting the counties. These include: fiscal policies relating to the federal deficit; outlook for our nation's economy; efforts to obtain greater federal support for county infrastructure needs; congressional legislation to spur broadband expansion; measures to maintain the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund; and disaster relief initiatives.

Breakout Session: "Hubs and Corridors"

This session was led by a panel which included: Pam Eaton, administrator of the Maui County Planning Department (Moderator/Organizer); Buddy Almeida, administrator of the Maui County Department of Housing and Human Services; Lauren Armstrong, Executive Director of the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); Nolly Yagin, administrator of the Maui County Department of Public Works; and David Yamashita, administrator of the Maui County Department of Parks and Recreation. They shared Maui County's plans to develop a transit corridor connecting a Kahului transit hub with Wailuku. County officials envision that the development of such a corridor will stimulate opportunities for multi-modal transportation, affordable housing, and a desirable and sustainable mix of land uses. During the question and answer period, I offered my perspectives as a Honolulu City Councilmember on initiatives that are being undertaken in our county to promote transit oriented development (TOD). I emphasized that as part of the TOD planning process, it is important for county planners and

policymakers to actively engage the community, and for TOD planners and the Mayor's administration and councilmembers to work closely together to ensure that appropriate land use ordinance provisions are adopted to implement the TOD plans. I also mentioned that Maui County planners need to anticipate possible community pushback if they plan to incorporate complete streets concepts as part of their planned transit corridor.

Lunch/Keynote: Climate Litigation

The speakers included Kate Sears, Marin County (CA) Supervisor and Alyssa Johl, Legal Counsel, Center for Climate Integrity. They discussed public nuisance lawsuits that are being filed against the major oil companies by various municipalities seeking compensation for the damages and losses that counties will incur because of the effects of climate change. The legal basis for these lawsuits is that the oil companies produced and promoted the use of fossil fuels with full knowledge that the utilization of such fuels results in greenhouse gas emissions causing global warming and climate change. The information shared by these panelists could be useful to Hawaii's counties if they decide to pursue similar litigation in the future.

Breakout Session: "Food (In) Security"

The panel which led this discussion included: Lauren Loor, Healthy Eating + Active Living Coalition Coordinator (Moderator/Organizer); Laksmi Abraham, Community Program Manager, Blue Zones Project; Susan Campbell, Founder and Director of Communication, Aina First; Jennifer Karaca, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Common Ground Collective; Tiare Lawrence, Community Relations Director, Mahi Pono; Charlotte O'Brien, Founder and Director of Agriculture, Aina First; and Bobby Pahia, Manager, Hoaloha Farms. All of the panelists are

members of the Maui Nui Food Policy Alliance which was formed to recommend solutions to address problems within our food system. Their goal is the development of a sustainable food system that will substantially reduce Hawaii's reliance on imported foods and increase the production of healthier fresh fruits and vegetables for Hawaii's population.

The panelist discussed what they believe are actions that have to be undertaken by government and the community to achieve food sustainability. These include: the need for stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan to support local agriculture (e.g. in the areas of infrastructure, production, processing, and marketing); supporting and facilitating part-time, small farming operations; encouraging Hawaii's residents to consume and buy "local"; urging the state legislature to approve larger subsidies for agriculture; expanding regenerative agriculture in which crops are grown organically without fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides; and promoting agriculture in our schools through educational programs such as the Farm to School programs in which students learn more about farming activities and how they connect with our Hawaiian culture and our aina; potential career opportunities in farming; the benefits of eating healthier; and how local food production contributes to a thriving and sustainable community.

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Conference Morning General Session – "Prescription for Housing"

The panelists included: Lieutenant Governor Josh Green; Rowena Dagdag-Andaya, Director, Maui County Department of Public Workers; Mel Kaneshige, Consultant, aio Foundation/Kahauiki Village; and Mark Tom, Honolulu Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

Lieutenant Governor Green discussed his proposals to address chronic homelessness including lift zones; shelters; homeless healthcare; ohana zones; joint outreach centers; addictions services; assisted community treatment; and permanent supportive housing.

Mel Kaneshige explained how the Kahauiki Village project was developed. The project is a community of approximately 144 one and two bedroom homes built on 11.3 acres of land adjacent to Nimitz Highway, Keehi Lagoon Park, and Sand Island. The Village will provide long-term permanent housing for approximately 153 currently homeless families with children on Oahu.

Mr. Kaneshige emphasized that the developer was able to move the project forward because of partnerships between the public and private sectors which substantially reduced development costs and thus enabling the developer to offer the rental units at affordable rates. The State of Hawaii, which owned the land, transferred the land to the City which in turn leased the property to aio Foundation for ten years (with an option to renew for an additional ten years) at \$1.00 per year.

Moreover, in order to expedite the development process, the Governor issued an emergency declaration that allowed the developer to forego the typical time-consuming permitting process. Therefore, the developer was able to complete phase 1 of the project in six months resulting in substantial time and cost savings. Mr. Kaneshige also pointed out that the project benefitted from the support of local companies and individuals that donated time, materials and money to make this project possible.

Prosecuting Attorney Mark Tom, who is also the son of former State Representative Terrence Tom, discussed the operations and accomplishments of the Community Outreach Court (COC) which has conducted hearings in Honolulu District Court, Wahiawa District Court,

Waianae District Court, and Kaneohe District Court. For homeless individuals who have committed non-violent offenses, COC gives these individuals the opportunity to clear their records by participating in community service and/or agreeing to get help from social service agencies. In a regular court, those defendants could have faced monetary fines and possible jail time, plus costs.

Attorney Tom believes that the program has been successful in helping chronically homeless individuals turn their lives around. Since January 2017, over 100 individuals have completed the program. Many have entered shelters or permanent housing; reconnected with families; or entered job placement or substance abuse counseling programs. Attorney Tom also mentioned that the Judiciary is planning to expand the program to other parts of Oahu and the neighbor islands.

Breakout Session: “Non-Profit Networks”

The panel featured: Councilmember Alice Lee (Moderator); Bevanne Bowers, President, Maui Association of Non-Profit Directors; Executive Director, Maui Mediation Services; Cassandra Abdul, Executive Director and Principal Broker, Na Hale O Maui; Paula Ambre, Community Impact Survey Statistician, Maui Association of Non-Profit Directors; Debbie Cabebe, CEO Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO); Sherri K. Dodson, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Maui; and Caroline Killhour, Executive Director, Hui No’eau.

The panel discussed the work of the Maui Non-Profit Directors Association in supporting the County’s non-profit organizations. They also discussed the results of a recently completed Community Impact Survey, the challenges non-profits on Maui face in achieving sustainability,

and how those obstacles are being overcome. Each panelist also shared the important work that their respective non-profits are performing in addressing the needs of Maui County.

Lunch/Keynote: “Legislative Update”

By House Speaker Scott Saiki and Video Message from Representative Tulsi Gabbard

Speaker Saiki discussed the Legislature’s implementation this past session of a zero based budgeting approach to the State budget. He also informed conferees about several funding measures that will benefit the counties in the areas of disaster relief; affordable housing; addressing homelessness; and infrastructure improvements. Although Speaker Saiki acknowledged that the Legislature was not able to pass legislation to increase the minimum wage and to address certain climate change issues, he indicated that these issues could be discussed again next session.

Breakout Session: “Beyond Climate Change”

The panelists for this breakout session included: Tara Owens, Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist, University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (Moderator); Tim Botkin, Coordinator, Sustainable Science Management BAS Program, University of Hawaii Maui College; Alex de Roade, Maui County Energy Commissioner; and Josh Stanbro, Chief Resilience Officer and Executive Director, Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency.

Ms. Owens had three message points: 1) sea level rise is a reality that we need to acknowledge and address; 2) we need to implement multi-faceted options – there is no “one size fits all” solution; and 3) resilience strategies and requirements (e.g. coastal setback requirements) need to be based on projected sea level rise.

Tim Botkin emphasized that more needs to be done to educate the public about the science of sea level rise and climate change. Alex de Roade discussed promising best practices in resiliency that we can learn from other municipalities. Josh Stanbro explained the development and details of the Oahu Resiliency Strategy.

Launch of the Hawaii Chapter: The Climate Reality Project

I attended the official launch of the Climate Reality Project's new Hawaii chapter. The project was founded by former Vice-President Al Gore and its mission is to bring members of the community together to solve climate change and to build a sustainable future together.

During this official launch, Hawaii's founding members gave a presentation on the climate crisis and instill hope for the future with tangible ways to impact positive change. The Hawaii Chapter is the first Climate Reality Project in the Asia Pacific Region, joining over 80 established chapters in the United States.

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Beyond Climate Film Screening

I had the opportunity to view the advanced screening of the documentary from the Maui Film Festival. Directed by Ian Mauro and narrated by scientist and activist David Suzuki, the film focuses on the perspectives of indigenous leaders, local communities, scientists, and policymakers that attempt to go into the heart of the issues, and connect the larger patterns of climate change with human dimension.

Conclusion

HSAC was well attended by both State and City and County officials and continues to provide a needed and convenient platform for the Hawaii counties to gather and exchange information, discuss solutions to shared concerns, and to hear from experts on external developments that may have an impact on the Islands. Collectively as a group, HSAC provides an opportunity to create effective and efficient County legislation for introduction to the State Legislature and continues to serve as the focal point of information for all government officials in each of the counties.

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: July 12, 2019

Traveler: Council Chair Emeritus Ron Menor

Event: 2019 HSAC Annual Conference

Location: Wailea Beach Resort, Maui, Hawaii

Dates: From June 10, 2019

To June 12, 2019

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	266	
2. Airfare	138.76	
3. Hotel	1058.16	
4. Meals	97.88 99	
5. Ground Transportation	213.50	
6. Tips	15.00	Meals
7. Other	30.00	Checked Bag Fees (\$15 x 2)
Other	20.29	Gas for Rental Vehicle
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	2020.94 1573.70	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:



Signature of Traveler

JUL 15 2019

Date